



April 19, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

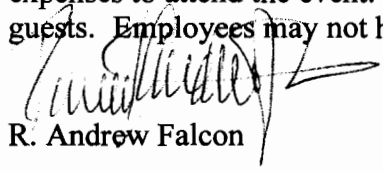
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at
CALIPSO/Cloudsat Spacecrafts Launch Reception, April 21, 2006

On April 20 & 21, 2006, the CALIPSO/Cloudsat spacecrafts will be launched on a Boeing Delta II Launch Vehicle from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on April 21, 2006. Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. (Ball Aerospace), Boeing Co., and Colorado State University (CSU) will sponsor a pre-launch reception on April 20, 2006, at the Marriott Ynez Valley, Buellton, California. This event will be widely attended by officials from other Federal agencies, members of Congress, and representatives from the aerospace industry. The estimated cost of the pre-launch reception, including all food and beverages, is \$15 per person. Approximately 500 people are expected to attend.

Ball Aerospace will sponsor a post-launch brunch on April 21, 2006, at the Marriott Santa Ynez Valley, Buellton, California. This event will be widely attended by officials from other Federal agencies, members of Congress, and representatives from the aerospace industry. The estimated cost of the post-launch Brunch, including all food and beverages, is \$22 per person. Approximately 350 people are expected to attend. These events will allow NASA employees the opportunity to discuss with other guests the accomplishments and progress of the Space program as well as other aspects of common interest.

I find that these events meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend these events. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect JPL, Boeing, Ball Aerospace, and CSU such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event for their local ethics counselor.

Note also that this determination is for the event itself and does not authorize official travel expenses to attend the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. Employees may not however, accept travel expenses or free lodging.


R. Andrew Falcon